

Intervention: Incorporate academic public health practice in the academic infrastructure

Finding: Insufficient Evidence to Determine Effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

Methods of incorporating academic public health practice into the academic infrastructure include: expanded use of technologies that enhance teaching, research, and service; increased recruitment and joint appointment of faculty and practitioners; and increased development of tenure and promotion systems that recognize scholarship of public health practice.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

A consensus study found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of incorporating academic public health practice in the academic infrastructure within the public health field. Practices that lack sufficient research to support effectiveness should not be confused with ineffective programs. Rather, they should be recognized as programs that have the potential to become evidence-based practices—if properly evaluated. Practitioners are encouraged to monitor the impact of these programs in their communities and report on their findings in order to build a base of knowledge sufficient to reach consensus.

Limitations/Comments:

The research cited was based on recommendations from the Council of Public Health Practice Coordinators of the Association of Schools of Public Health in a consensus study.

References:

Wright K, Nelson J, Potter M, Quill, B. Demonstrating Excellence in Academic Public Health Practice. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* 2000; 6(1):10-24.